

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00

SCCT-01 SY-05 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OC-06 CCO-00 /094 W

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P R 091407Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5427

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6946

BRUSSELS AND ROME FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, ASEC, GR

SUBJECT: SECURITY AT ATHENS AIRPORT

1. FOLLOWING THE JUNE 25 AIR FRANCE HIGHJACKING AND RECENTLY REVIVED EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN BY TWA AND OTHER AIRLINES OVER CONTINUING WEAKNESSES IN ATHENS AIRPORT SECURITY PROCEDURES, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT USG SHOULD CONSIDER, TOGETHER WITH OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES, JOINT ACTION THROUGH APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BRING THE CONCERN OF INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS OVER SECURITY CONDITIONS AT ATHENS AIRPORT TO THE ATTENTION OF GOG, AND TO STIMULATE EFFECTIVE REMDIAL MEASURES. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SUCH A COORDINATED APPROACH ON BEHALF OF MAJOR FOREIGN AIRLINES USING ATHENS AIRPORT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN ANY BILATERAL DEMARCHE. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON WHAT MECHANISMS --MULTILATERAL OR OTHERWISE--MIGHT BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN EXPRESSING TO THE GOG THE VERY REAL CONCERN OF SOME INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS OVER WHAT THE LOCAL TWA MANAGER, IN A LETTER THIS WEEK TO THE

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EMBASSY, CHARACTERIZES AS "MAJOR SECURITY

PROBLEMS AT ATHENS" AND "NOTICEABLE INDIFFERENCE ON THE PART OF (ATHENS AIRPORT) AUTHORITIES"..

2. A SPOT CHECK JULY 5 BY A TWA SECURITYMANAGER FROM ROME REVEALED THAT PASSENGER AND HAND-CARRIED BAGGAGE SCREENING WAS NOT THOROUGH, AND SEVERAL INSTANCES WERE NOTED OF PASSENGER ENTERING THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE WITHOUT SCREENING. THE GENERAL CONCERN OVER LOCAL SECURITY PROCEDURES IS SHARED BY AT LEAST SWISSAIR, SABENA AND TWA, ALL OF WHICH HAVE REPEATEDLY RAISED THE ISSUE INDEPENDENTLY WITH AIRPORT OFFICIALS AND COLLECTIVELY AT MEETINGS OF THE AIRLINE OPERATORS COMMITTEE, WITHOUT SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

3. THE TWA SECURITY OFFICIAL CALLED AT THE EMBASSY JULY 6 TO EMPHASIZE THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION AND TO ASK THAT THE EMBASSY SUPPORT A POSSIBLE VISIT TO ATHENS BY FAA OFFICIALS AND ASSIST IN TRANSMITTING TO THE GOG A CHECKLIST OF SECURITY PROCEDURES. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT TWA HAS POSITIVE INFORMATION THAT THE HIGHJACKERS BOARDED THE AIR FRANCE FLIGHT IN ATHENS AND HAD PURCHASED TICKETS IN KUWAIT JUNE 22. TWA REP INDICATED THAT TWA VICE PRESIDENT FOR AUDIT AND SECURITY RICHARD NEUMAN IS IN CONTACT WITH FAA CONCERNING INSPECTION VISIT TO ATHENS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH GOG OFFICIALS BY FAA TEAM. EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO FAA REPRESENTATIVES AND TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT WITH GOG OFFICIALS.

4. ON JULY 9, EMBASSY ECON COUNSELOR RAISED INFORMALLY THE QUESTION OF AIRPORT SECURITY WITH THE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PROVIDED HIM WITH A COPY OF GUIDELINES ON WEAPONS, DANGEROUS DEVICES AND CARRY-ON INSPECTIONS PREPARED BY ATA AND APPROVED FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY FAA. A COPY OF THESE GUIDELINES HAD BEEN GIVEN BY THE EMBASSY TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE GREEK CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY EARLIER THIS YEAR, BUT TWA OFFICIALS RECENTLY EXPRESSED DOUBT WHETHER THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN HAD BEEN EFFECTIVELY DISSEMINATED TO THE AGENCIES AND PERSONNEL

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CONCERNED.  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, AIRPORTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SECURITY AT ATHENS AIRPORT  
**TAGS:** EAIR, ASEC, GR  
**To:** STATE  
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